

Message

**From:** Bohnenblust, Eric [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0331C49AEB404367AD226F6BD10D795D-BOHNENBLUST]  
**Sent:** 3/19/2020 2:49:06 PM  
**To:** Pierce, Amanda [pierce.amanda@epa.gov]; Striegel, Wiebke [Striegel.Wiebke@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Milewski, Elizabeth [Milewski.Elizabeth@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FYI FW: Oxitec response to comment  
**Attachments:** OX5034 r2c Comments on Legal Issues 03 03 2020.docx

Wiebke and Amanda,

Below are some thoughts in Bold from Ben. In 2.

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Amanda for 3. I believe we are making a “no effects finding” correct? If so Elizabeth and I can just respond with yes that is our finding.

I’m going to send Ben the import permit provided by Oxitec, but if we can avoid sending him multiple emails with the answers that would be beneficial so I’d like to include answers along with the import permit.

Thanks.

Eric Bohnenblust, Ph.D  
Senior Biologist  
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Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD)  
Phone: 703-347-0426  
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**From:** Wakefield, Benjamin J. <wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>; Kaczmarek, Chris <Kaczmarek.Chris@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Oxitec response to comment

Eric,

First, although I am still aiming to get draft responses to you by Sunday (March 22), it might not be until March 31 that I can complete this task. However, it looks like I am probably not going to be on leave next week after all, but even if I am (and haven’t yet finished the legal RTCs), then I’ll continue working on it next week until it’s done. So, I plan to get it done by March 31, regardless of whether I’m on leave next week or not. That said, please let me know ASAP if the “official” target date changes.

As to the legal comments themselves that you sent (attached for reference), here is my present thinking. Please note that I’ve included **bold, underlined** questions below for BPPD’s response:

**1) Comments Challenging EPA’s Interpretation That FIFRA Can Be Used to Regulate OX5034 Mosquito**

**Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)**

# Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

## 2) Comments Arguing the Agency Must Prepare a Full EIS Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

# Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

However, it looks to me like most of the argument, here, is scientific in nature, as to why “GE mosquitos” are different, or more risky, than other things. As but one example of this:

# Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

[1] [https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/dirofilariasis/biology\\_d\\_immitis.html](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/dirofilariasis/biology_d_immitis.html)

[2] Chihota, C. M., Rennie, L. F., Kitching, R. P., & Mellor, P. S. (2001). Mechanical transmission of lumpy skin disease virus by *Aedes aegypti* (Diptera: Culicidae). *Epidemiology and Infection*, **126**(2), 317–321.

[3] Fenner, F., Day, M. F., & Woodroffe, G. M. (1952). The mechanism of the transmission of myxomatosis in the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. *The Australian Journal of Experimental Biology and Medical Science*, **30**(2), 139–152.

[4] Kilham, L., & Dalmat, H. T. (1955). Host-Virus-Mosquito Relations of Shope Fibromas in Cottontail Rabbits. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, **61**(1), 45–54.

[5] Mweya, C. N., Kimera, S. I., Kija, J. B., & Mboera, L. E. G. (2013). Predicting distribution of *Aedes aegypti* and *Culex pipiens* complex, potential vectors of Rift Valley fever virus in relation to disease epidemics in East Africa. *Infection Ecology & Epidemiology*, **3**(1), 21748.

[6] Thongyuan, S., & Kittayapong, P. (2017). First evidence of dengue infection in domestic dogs living in different ecological settings in Thailand. *PLOS ONE*, **12**(8), e0180013.

# **Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)**

3) Comments Stating that EPA Must Comply with the Endangered Species Act and Other Laws

# **Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)**

4) Veterinary Feed Directive (21 USC 354)

# **Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)**

5) Comments Questioning Whether Oxitec Can Be Released from the Contained Use Requirements of an Import Permit

# **Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)**

6) EPA Should Not Rely on the Registrant Providing Assessment Data/Information

# **Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)**

# Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

## A) Human studies

# Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

## B) Oxitec's purposes do not fit appropriate purposes of an EUP

Is there such a comment in play, here?

## C) Notification for export of GE insects from the EU per the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Is there such a comment in play, here?

## D) New regulations covering GE mosquitos needed in light of FDA's GFI 236

Is there such a comment in play, here?

## E) EPA should (must?) do a rulemaking to un-exempt biological control agents

Is there such a comment in play, here?

## F) FDA vs. EPA vs. APHIS jurisdiction?

Is there such a comment in play, here?

## G) Public hearing required

Is there such a comment in play, here?

## H) Migratory Bird Treaty Act and EO 13186

Is there such a comment in play, here?

## I) "Legal" arguments regarding "no unreasonable adverse effects" finding under FIFRA

Is there such a comment in play, here?

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss.

Thanks!

- Ben

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**From:** Bohnenblust, Eric <[Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 10:29 AM  
**To:** Wakefield, Benjamin J. <[wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov](mailto:wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Oxitec response to comment

Sounds good, our meeting with Rick is at 430 so anything you can give me before that is helpful. Thanks.

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**From:** Wakefield, Benjamin J. <[wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov](mailto:wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 10:28 AM  
**To:** Bohnenblust, Eric <[Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mendelsohn, Mike <[Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov](mailto:Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Oxitec response to comment

Eric,

I'll be in touch as soon as I can. Other fires burning at the moment.

- Ben

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**From:** Bohnenblust, Eric <[Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov](mailto:Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 10:25 AM  
**To:** Wakefield, Benjamin J. <[wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov](mailto:wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mendelsohn, Mike <[Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov](mailto:Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Oxitec response to comment

Ben,

I just wanted to check in on your progress. We have a meeting with Rick today to provide an update. As mentioned previously our stated target date in BPPD is mid-April (right now is the 15<sup>th</sup>), but the existing march 31 date has not been moved at this time.

If you don't think you will finish this week, please let me know. I know you are on leave next week, we will convey what you think is doable to Rick. If you want to discuss on the phone, I have call forwarding on and should be available after 11 am this morning.

Thanks.

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